

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

OSTRICH

file

TO: Chief, SCI
FROM: Lt. Michaelis

22 January 1945

SUBJECT: Contacting OSTRICH's father in Switzerland.

It was agreed before OSTRICH's departure that he would probably be able to write through SD channels to his father, with whom he is on good terms. He has promised me that he will send a letter which will arrive about the first of February. In this letter he will indicate that everything worked out all right by saying that he was in good health, had just returned from the front, and is on two or three weeks' leave in Berlin. This will mean that the project for his return to France is working out, and that we may expect him within two or three weeks.

If things go wrong his secretary and mistress, Mlle. Alice MACKERT, will send some kind of letter to the father in Switzerland, explaining that something has happened to OSTRICH.

OSTRICH's father is Theodor NEBEL, Hochwald, Canton Soleure, Switzerland. This is in the neighborhood of Basle. He lives with his son, and is a farmer. They speak only the Swiss dialect. This contact should be made in that language. Absolute secrecy must be preserved, as Theodor NEBEL does not know anything about his son's activity. He believes OSTRICH is in the German army, and his son is known to him only as Louis NEBEL, his real name. The man who makes the contact may represent himself as coming from the police, which might scare the necessary information out of the old man, as farmers are in general very suspicious of casual callers who ask questions. Another suggestion for method of contact would be to see the brother, who lives with his father at Hochwald; since he is a younger man it might be possible to explain to him that his brother is working for the Allies. If we take him into our confidence we can ask him pointblank for the information we want, telling him we mean to make an effort to clear OSTRICH's status in Switzerland after the hostilities are over, in reward for his services. We must insist on the preservation of absolute secrecy, as his brother's life depends on it.

In our opinion it should not be difficult to make this contact successfully.

1) After discussion with JRM decided
with two great to maintain changing
x-2 Switzerland in the future.
Ostrich must return without fail.
mainly us.

WHL 22/1

Michaelis
WHL

Correction

2) JRM has sent cable to DB001
incorporating above.

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